

Tyson's Land Use Task Force to hold Meetings with Community Leaders to Discuss Planning Process

To further our mission to gain public input, the Tysons Land Use Task Force is inviting leaders of community, non-profit, and resident organizations and Tysons area businesses to learn about the upcoming planning process for the future of Tysons Corner.

The Tysons Land Use Task Force has been working for the past year to envision the future for Tysons Corner to coincide with the development of four new metrorail stations. During 2007, the Task Force will be working with an urban planning firm to identify a detailed model for the future of Tysons Corner. The planning process includes significant opportunities for public input.

The Task Force wants community leaders to understand the public input activities to be conducted in 2007 so that they will help inform and encourage the participation of others in these opportunities to help shape the future of Tysons Corner.

The following community presentations have been scheduled:

Dranesville District Homeowners & Residents
Tuesday, January 23, 2006

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Spring Hill Elementary School
8201 Lewinsville Road,
McLean, Virginia 22102

Non-Profit and Community Organizations
Wednesday, January 31, 2007

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Fairfax Chamber of Commerce
8230 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 350
Vienna, VA 22182

Providence District Homeowners & Residents
Wednesday, January 24, 2006

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Freedom Hill Elementary School
1945 Lord Fairfax Road,
Vienna, Virginia 22182

Hunter Mill District Homeowners & Residents
Wednesday, January 31, 2007

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Westbriar Elementary School
1741 Pine Valley Drive
Vienna, Virginia 22180

Business Leaders

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Fairfax Chamber of Commerce
8230 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 350
Vienna, VA 22182

If you are a resident, homeowner, or represent a community organization or local business and would like to take advantage of the opportunity to learn about the planning process, ask questions, and provide us with your ideas regarding the planned public input opportunities, please RSVP to 703-324-1344, or email us at tysonscornerspecialstudy@fairfaxcounty.gov



Background

In March 2005, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors created the Tysons Land Use Task Force to consider the impacts of four planned Metrorail stations. The mission of the Task Force is to gather community input and recommend updates to the Tysons Comprehensive Plan. The Task Force is a 35-member group representing residents, businesses, major employers, and community and civic organizations. The Task Force and the county are working together with the community to create a collective vision for a positive and exciting future for Tysons Corner.

Building on Community Values

The Task Force's first task was to study the 1994 Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan and issues related to planning for growth and transit-oriented design. The Task Force then sought extensive public input to identify key values and concerns for the future of Tysons Corner. In January and February 2006, the Task Force talked with 424 people – via 20 dialogues and on-line comments -- who identified a wide variety of important community values, issues and concerns regarding Tysons' future. These values included creating an increased sense of place in Tysons Corner, improving traffic conditions, protecting surrounding communities, increasing residential options, and managing growth, among others. The full report of this initial community outreach can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner/

Identifying Strong Planning Principles

After considering all of the values and issues raised by the community, the Task Force identified a set of draft guiding planning principles to provide clear and fundamental direction for planning a future model of Tysons. The Task Force obtained significant public comments on the draft principles before finalizing them in October 2006. Themes of the final guiding planning principles include:

- Move Tysons Corner forward within its existing boundaries
- Retain compatible transitions at the edges to adjacent neighborhoods
- Transform Tysons Corner from a suburban office park and activity center into a 24/7 urban center
- Reduce the time, cost, and inconvenience of accessing and moving within Tysons Corner by promoting pedestrian walkways, trails, shuttles, bike routes, a grid of streets, transit connections and standard principles of trip reduction
- Reduce the suburban focus on isolated buildings, surface parking and moving vehicles through Tysons Corner
- Attract mixed-use, transit-oriented development, and private investment to Metrorail station areas, including increased housing
- Engage people, communities, institutions, and the private sector with government to include distinctive architecture and facilities that mark environmentally sound, safe, and inclusive urban communities
- Respect the unique natural features and topography and expand accessible open space.

The complete Guiding Planning Principles can be found on the web at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner/

Continuing the Dialogue

The Task Force is committed to open communication and ongoing public input to its work and process. The County web site (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner/) contains all available information and materials pertaining to the Task Force. The Task Force also maintains an email listserv for interested citizens and a telephone information line. All Task Force meetings are open to the public and the schedule is posted on the web site. Interested stakeholders are invited to sign up for email or regular mail updates on the web site or at the contact points identified below.

Comments, input, and questions can be provided by phone at 703-324-1344, email at tysonscornerspecialstudy@fairfaxcounty.gov, or mail to:

Tysons Corner Special Study
Dept. of Planning & Zoning
12055 Government Center Pkwy., Suite 730
Fairfax, Virginia 22035-5505

